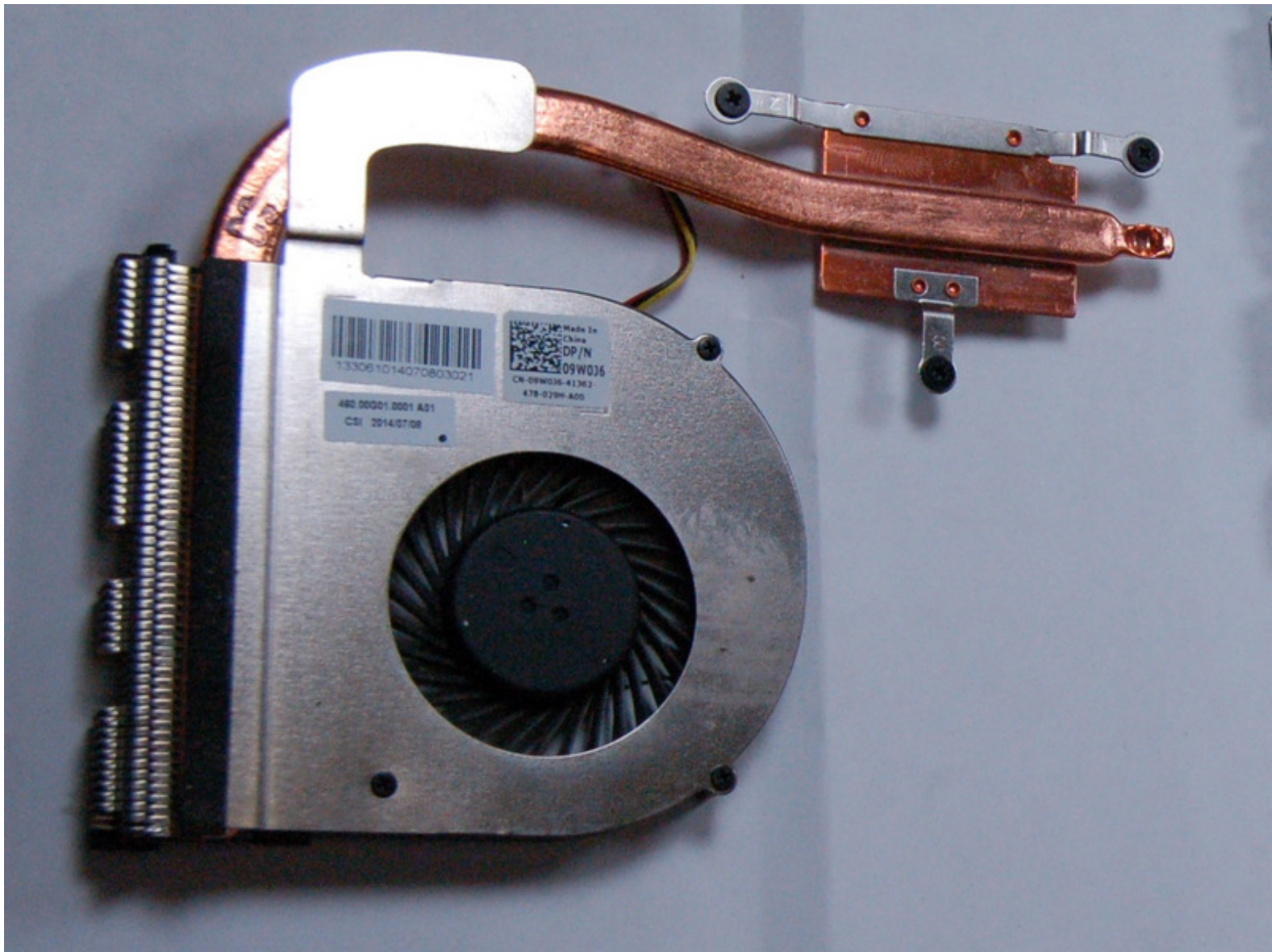




Dell Inspiron 3542 Heat Sink Replacement

This guide explains how to replace the heat sink in a Dell Inspiron 3542.

Written By: Rachel lindsey



INTRODUCTION

Follow these steps to disassemble the computer, access the heat sink, and replace the part.



TOOLS:

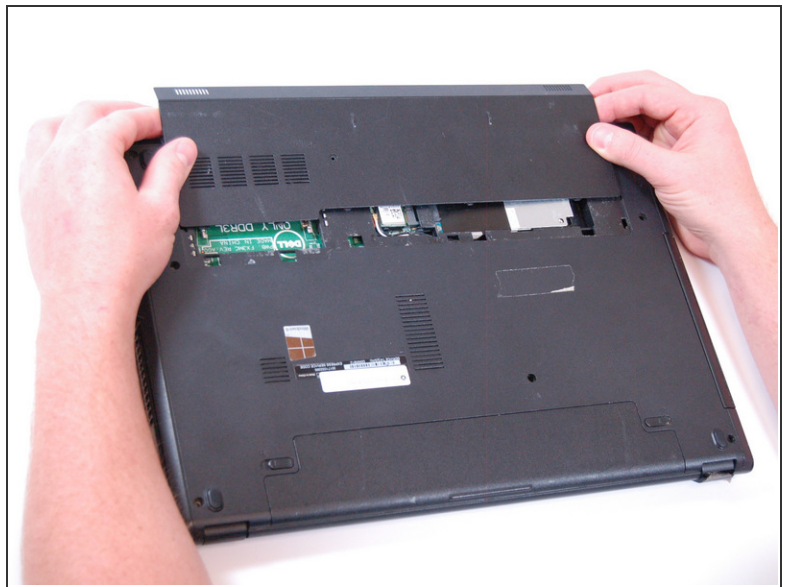
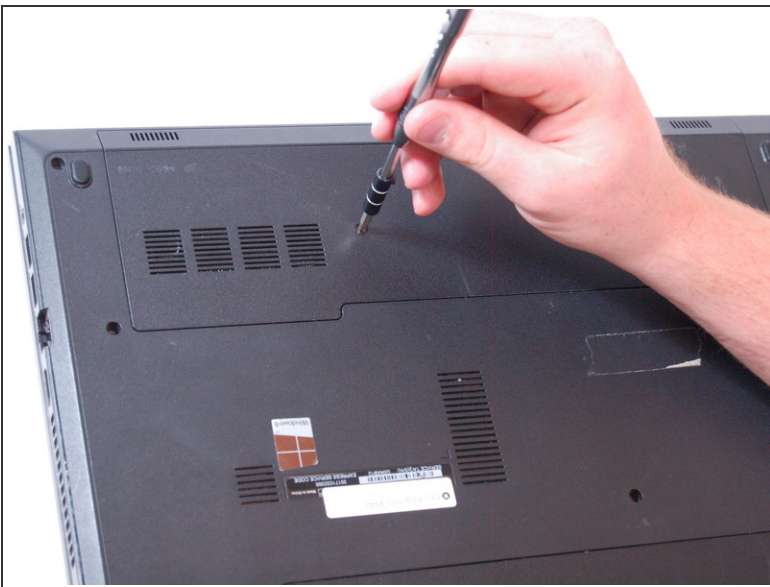
- [Phillips head screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
-

Step 1 — Heat Sink



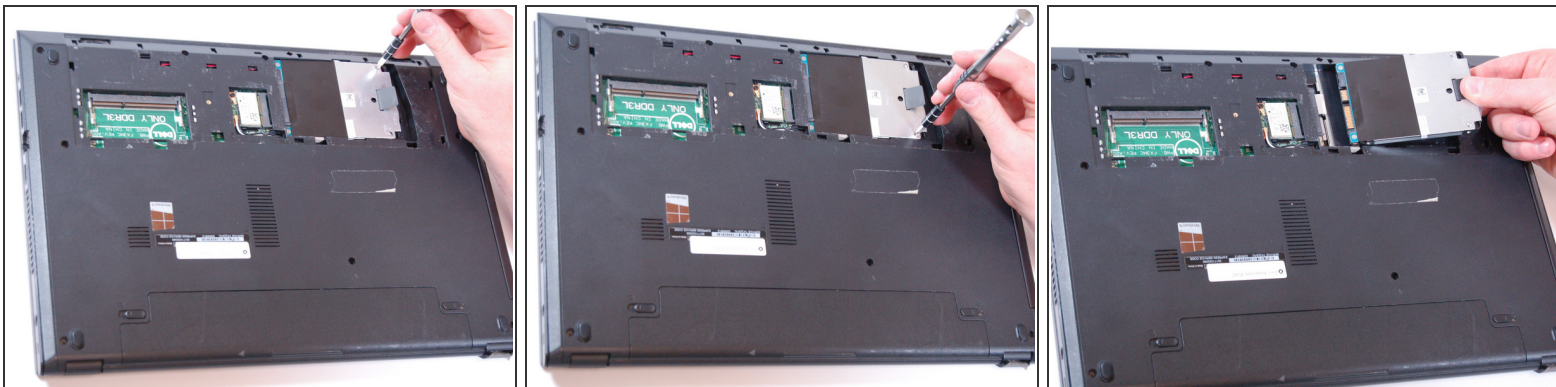
- Slide the latches on both sides of the computer outward to unlock the battery.
- Remove the battery from the computer.

Step 2



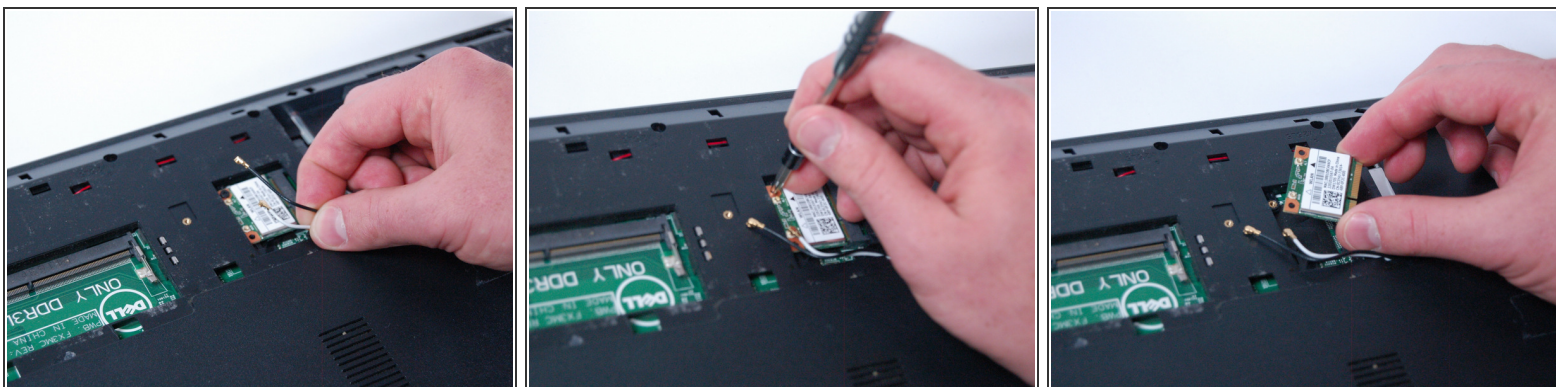
- Remove the screw. (1x M2 x 3mm)
- Slide down the access door and remove it.

Step 3



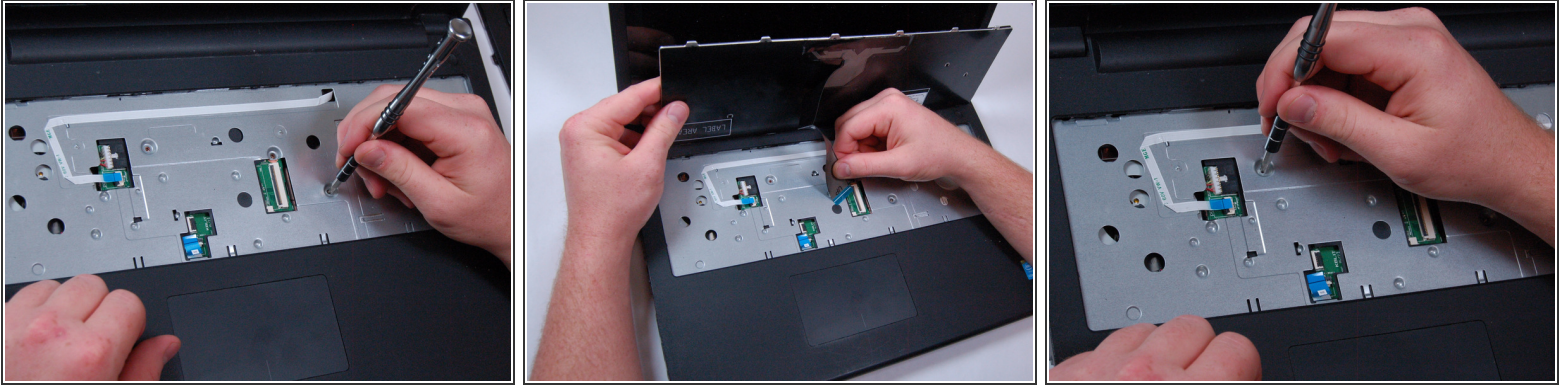
- Remove the screw. (1 x m2 x 3mm)
- Move the hard drive to the open area and remove it.

Step 4



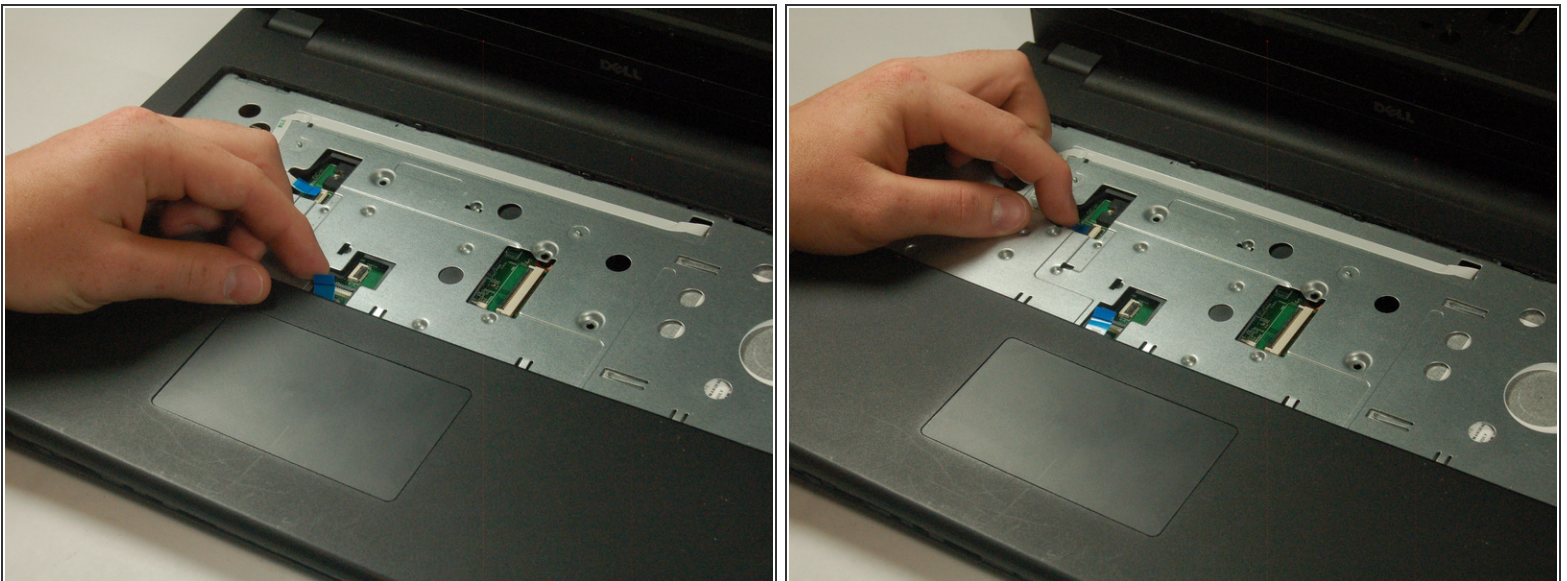
- Unplug the black and white antenna cables from the wireless card.
- Remove the screw. (1 x M2 x 3mm)
- Remove the wireless card from the laptop.

Step 5



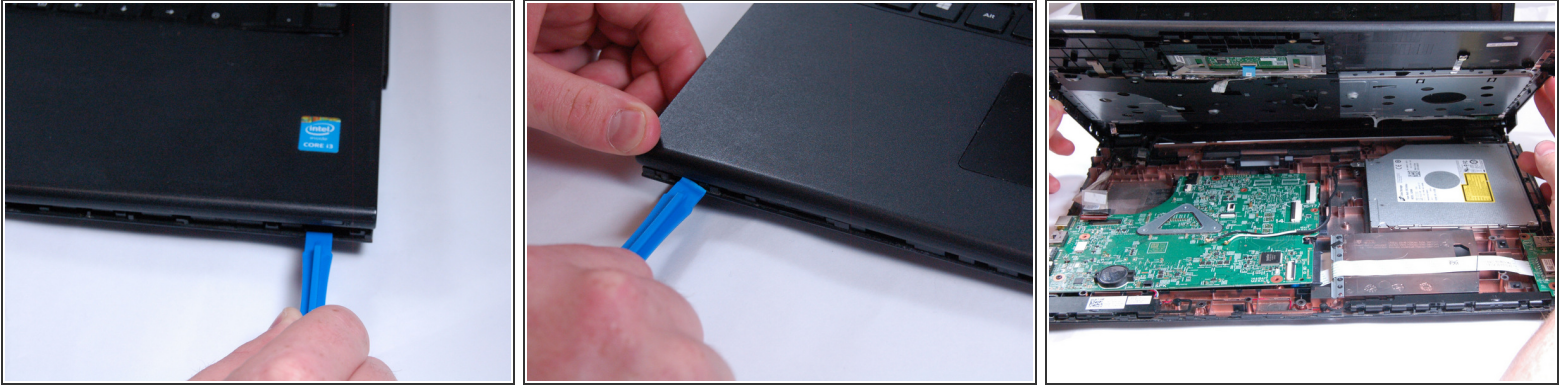
- Turn over the laptop and open it.
- Use the plastic prying device to release the keyboard.
- Lift the keyboard.
- Unplug the cable connecting the keyboard to the laptop.
- Remove the keyboard.
- Remove the screws. (3 x M2.5 x 5mm)

Step 6



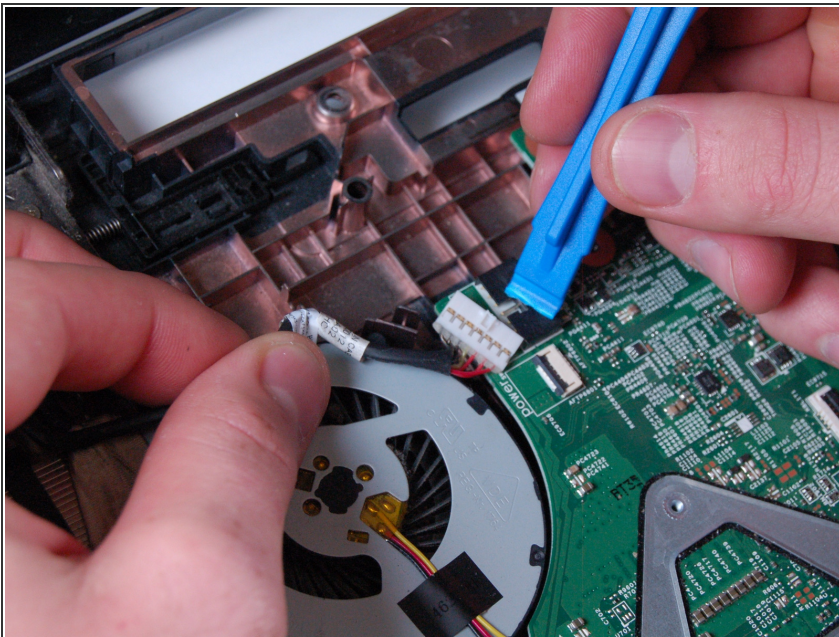
- Unplug the touch pad cables located on the palm rest.

Step 7



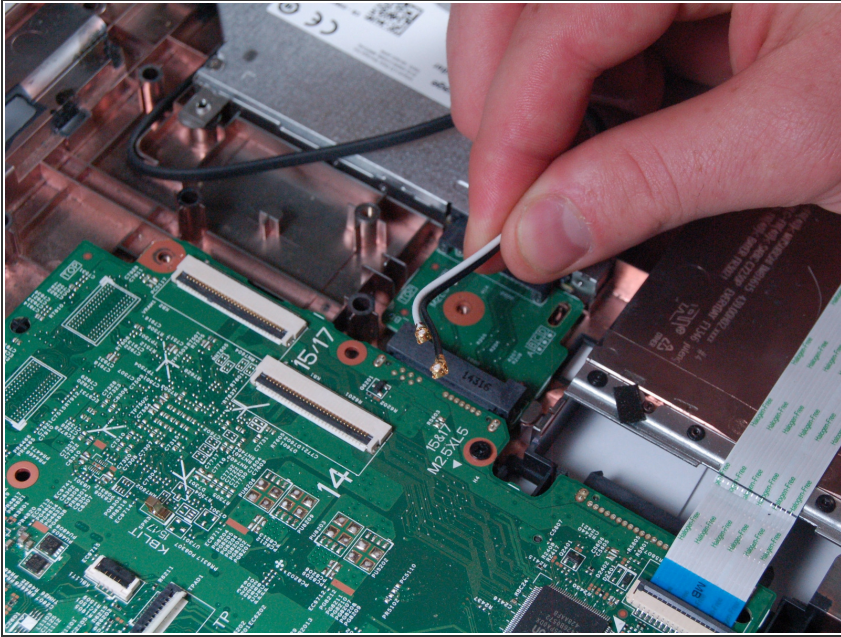
- Carefully unsnap the palm rest from the rest of the laptop.
- Remove the palm rest.

Step 8



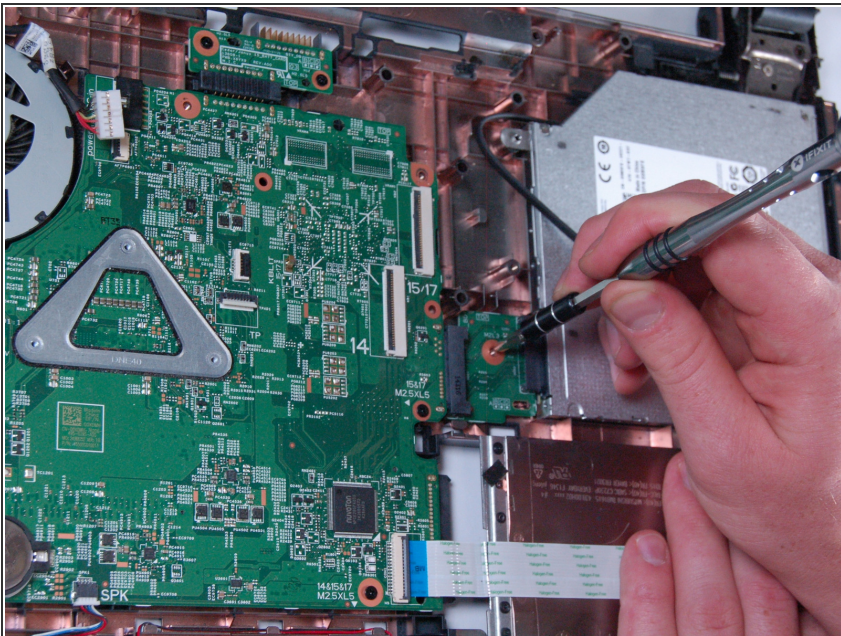
- Unplug the cable that connects to the motherboard.
- Remove the DC jack from the laptop.

Step 9



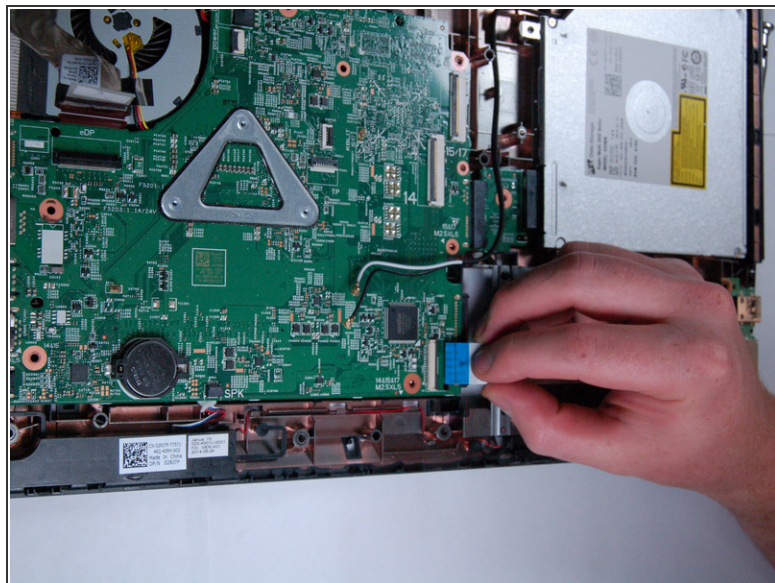
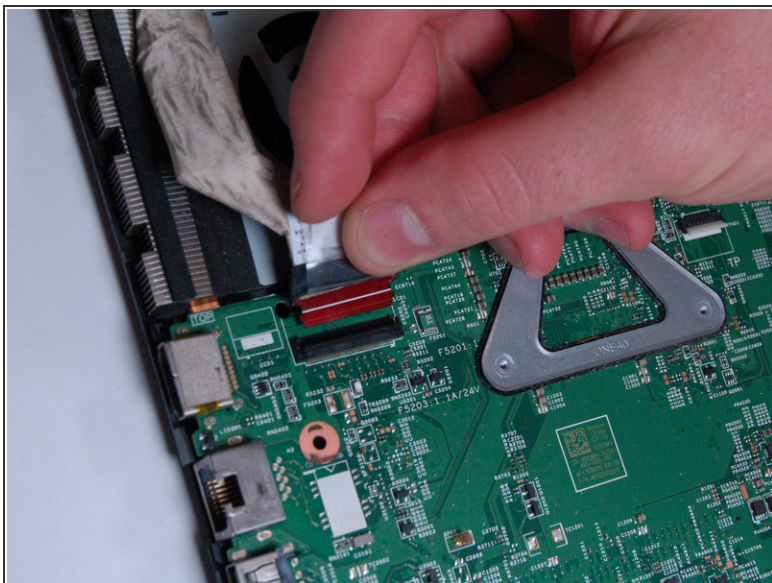
- Loosen the cables on the antenna.

Step 10



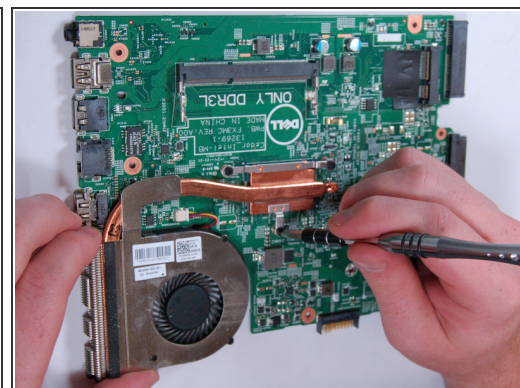
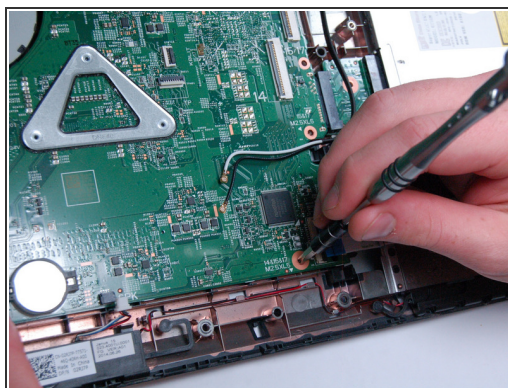
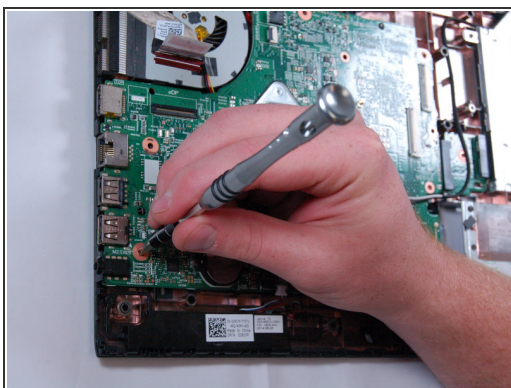
- Remove the screws. (1 x M2 x 3mm)
- Unplug the circuit board from the rest of the computer.

Step 11



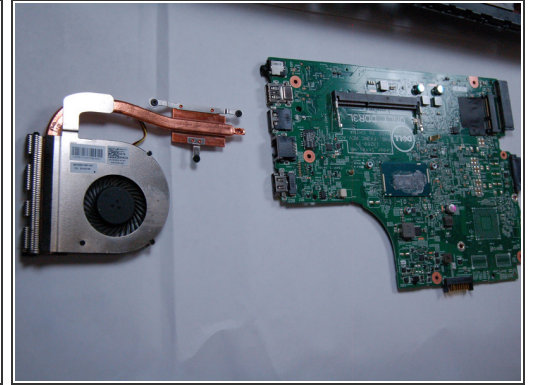
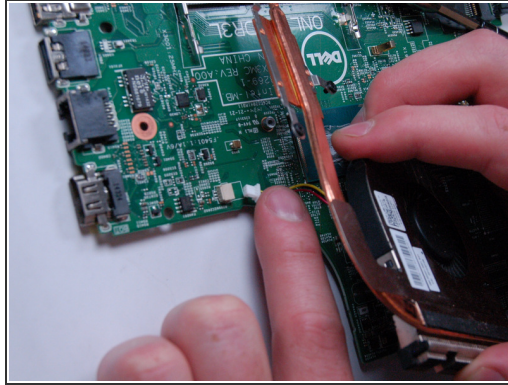
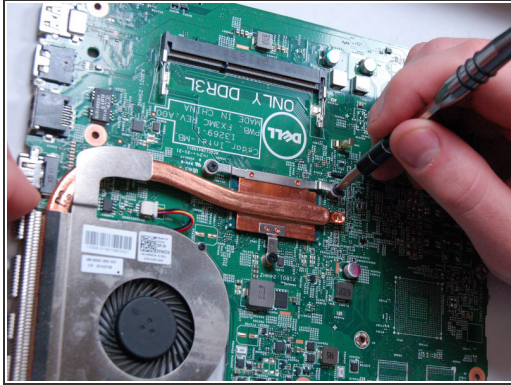
- Loosen the tape on the left side of the laptop.
- Unplug the display cable.

Step 12



- Unplug the cable on the bottom part of the motherboard.
- Remove the screws. (3 x M2.5 x 5mm)
- Remove the motherboard from the laptop.

Step 13



- Turn over the motherboard.
- Unplug the cooling fan.
- Loosen the 3 screws from the heat sink.
- Remove the heat sink.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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